Plans. The implementation of the prescriptions of the Working Plans is the responsibility of the State Government and the details are not available with the Ministry.

(d) and (e) No specific instance of large scale illegal deforestation has come to the notice. However, sporadic instances of illegal felling of trees do occur in the various States and on detection action is taken by the officials of the State Government under Indian Forest Act and other rules and Acts prevailing in the States.

Declaring forest villages as revenue villages in MP

†1384. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a propoal to the Central Government for declaring 925 forest villages of the State as revenue villages;

(b) whether the Central Government have expressed their approval/objection regarding all these villages; and

(c) if not, whether approval/objections would be given at the earliest keeping in view, the interests of the tribals and no such conditions would be imposed on them which would unnecessarily delay the transformation of forest villages into revenue villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a list of 925 forest villages in 27 Districts of the State, to the Central Government for conversion into revenue villages. The proposal is incomplete and not according to the guidelines issued by the Central Government on 18th September, 1990, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Eco-system of Changthang region

1385. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the opening

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

up of the high altitude wetlands in the Changthang region of Ladakh for tourism is disturbing its extremely fragile eco-system;

(b) whether Government have taken a note of the fact that the tourist activities are causing disturbance to the wildlife, degrading the pastures and adding to the pollution etc.; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to preserve the natural habitat of Changthang region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) By opening high altitude wetlands of Changthang region for tourism *viz.*, Pangong Tsar, Tso Morari, Tso-Tsokar, increase in movement of vehicles and some disturbance to wildlife has been noticed. To preserve the natural habitat of Changthang region, an area of 4000 sq. kms has been declared as Changthang cold desert sanctuary under J & K Wildlife Protection Act, 1978. Ministry has identified all the three wetlands under National Wetland Conservation Programme. An amount of Rs. 26 lakhs for Tso Morari, Rs. 18.56 lakhs for Tso-Tsokar, Rs. 20 lakhs for Pangong Tso has been released for activities like fencing, watershed management, education awareness, protection, habitat improvement, etc. Tso Morari has also been declared as a Ramsar site of International Importance.

Forest villages in Uttaranchal

†1386. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such villages in Uttaranchal which can be given name of forest village (Van Gram);

(b) whether these forest villages (Van Gramon) have got the status of the revenue village and the programmes of public welfare and development are implemented in these villages like other villages;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.